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FROM: Benghazi

TO: Secretary of State

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SENT DEPARTMENT 377, REPEATED INFORMATION TRIPOLI UNNUMBERED.

Cyrenaica weekly news front page article February 8 on forthcoming Libyan-American aid discussions states "political circles" consider revision 1954 agreement to "more realistic form" necessary. Success of talks depends on US attitude toward reasonable Libyan requests for (1) increased financial assistance, (2) new methods pending such assistance, (3) amendment certain clauses agreement which not consistent with independence Libya.

CWN apparently has excellent sources information, since in aid discussions which began February 9, GOL requested review certain unspecified articles base agreement, contrary to previous indications Prime Minister that base agreement would not be under discussion. Attacks on "unjust" base agreement have recently been numerous in parliament and newspapers.

Same addition CWN carries report parliamentary debate on question raised by member Abd Al-Salam Tohami concerning steps taken by GOL to protect inhabitants Suq Al-Juma district near Wheelus from aircraft accidents. Tohami stated since Americans did as they pleased and GOL took no action, necessary ask House Representatives take steps protect people. Gave distorted version recent accident, stating Americans put out fire in crashed plane leaving nine-year old girl to burn to death. Inhabitants Sub-Al-Juma did not believe Libya independent since American agreement allowed Americans do anything, reserved no rights for Libyans. Permenent Under Secretary Foreign Affairs at one point in debate stated Embassy had assured GOL accidents would not occur again. As accidents were unfortunately still occuring, GOL would continue

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continue efforts ensure public's safety. Prime Minister's final answer stated only that GOL had done and would do everything it could prevent recurrence accidents. No GOL representative made slightest attempt present accidents in proper perspective, refute distorted stories, or defend base agreement.

JONES

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